THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Navy has established various networks and can exchange information between the networked units/stations.

Joint armed services doctrine

2075. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint armed services doctrine is under way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, it will be in place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the study of military history, principles of war, combat leadership and application of military power in the Indian scenario, a Joint armed services doctrine broadly covering strategic and military aspects is being formulated by the Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS), in consultation with the three Services, with a view to synergize the capabilities of the three Services into an effective force.

(c) No time limit can be fixed in view of the need for extensive inter-Service and inter-ministerial consultations.

Conclave of ex-chiefs

2076. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first ever conclave of ex-chiefs was held recently and if so, what was the purpose thereof;

(b) whether it will help the Army to improve in any manner; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Government did not organize a conference of ex-Army Chiefs. However, the Army Headquarters did organize this conference at which non-classified subjects related to organizational, administrative and welfare aspects were discussed.